Claim 24 (new)

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, and Huntington's Disease.

Claim 25 (new)

25. The method of claim 23 wherein said aberrant form of tau is P301L, associated with "fronto-temporal dementia with Parkinson's linked to chromosome 17 (FTDP-17)".

Claim 26 (new)

26. The method of claim 23 wherein said neuropathology is characterized as neurofibrillary tangles.

Claim 27 (new)

27. The method of claim 23, wherein said somatically transferring comprises injecting said gene into pre-selected areas of the brain of said living rodent.

Claim 28 (new)

28. The method of claim 23, wherein said brain tissue comprises nigrastriatal neurons, septalhippocampal neurons, or both.

Claim 29 (new)

29. A method for inducing neuropathology in the brain of a non-human animal which comprises injecting into the brain of said animal an effective amount of gene expression construct encoding tau, alpha-synuclein, presenilin-1, amyloid precursor protein, or IL6, or combinations thereof.

Claim 30 (new)

30. A method for inducing behavioral changes in a living rodent which comprises somatically transferring a gene encoding an aberrant form of tau protein directly into the brain of said living rodent.

Claim 31 (new)

31. The method of claim 30 wherein somatically transferring comprises injecting an effective amount of gene expression construct encoding tau into the brain of said living rodent.

Claim 32 (new)

32. The method of claim 30 wherein somatically transferring comprises injecting an effective amount of gene expression construct encoding tau, alpha-synuclein, presenilin-1, amyloid precursor protein, and IL6.

Claim 33 (new)

33. The method of claim 30, wherein somatically transferring is achieved by using an adeno-associated viral vector.

Claim 34 (new)

34. A composition comprising at least one gene construct adapted for producing a non-human animal model of a human or non-human-animal neurodegenerative disease by transferring at least one aberrant form of at least one gene known to be associated with said disease in humans or non-human animals into brain tissue of a living rodent under conditions which result in the expression of said at least one gene, wherein said transferring does not require the modification of the germ-line of said living animal, where said composition comprises a gene encoding an aberrant tau protein in a vector construct which results in active expression of said gene upon introduction into said tissue, and wherein said living animal is a rat or mouse.